



State of Alabama Department of Education Ed Richardson

State Superintendent of Education



The Honorable Don Siegelman Governor of the State of Alabama Montgomery, Alabama 36130 State Capitol

In accordance with section 16-3-21, Code of Alabama, 1975 and by direction of the State Board of Education, I am pleased to submit this statistical and Dear Governor Siegelman: financial report of operations for the State Department of Education. This report summarizes the activities and operations of the State Department of Education for the scholastic year ending June 30, 2003 and the fiscal year ending September 30, 2003. Respectfully submitted, Ed Richardson

Ed Richardson State Superintendent of Education

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ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
JOSEPH B. MORTON, STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION, JANUARY 2005

BULLETIN 2005, NO. 3

state board of education

mission statement

"To provide a state system of education which is committed to academic excellence and which provides education of the highest quality to all Alabama students, preparing them for the 21st century."



Gov. Don Siegelman President Governor's Office State Capitol Montgomery, AL (334) 242-7100



Bradley Byrne District I PO Box 1348 Mobile, AL 36633 Work: (251) 433-3234 FAX: (251) 438-7733



G.J. "Dutch" Higginbotham District II 166 North Gay Street Auburn, AL 36830 Work: (334) 821-7712 FAX: (334) 826-1295



Stephanie W. Bell District III 3218 Lancaster Lane Montgomery, AL 36106 Work: (334) 272-2777 Fax: (334) 260-0100



Dr. Ethel H. Hall Vice President District IV Fairfield, AL 35064 Work: (205) 923-6093



7125 Westmoreland Drive Fax: (205) 923-5700

David F. Byers Jr.

District VI

Two Metroplex Drive, Suite 111

Birmingham, AL 35209

Work: (205) 263-2400

Fax: (205) 263-2300



Sandra Ray District VII 2008 University Boulevard Tuscaloosa, AL 35401 Work: (205) 758-7777 Fax: (205) 758-7789



Dr. Mary Jane Caylor District VIII PO Box 18903 Huntsville, AL 35804 Work: (256) 489-0541 Fax: (256) 489-0552



Ella B. Bell

District V

2634 Airwood Drive

Montgomery, AL 36108

Work: (334) 229-6866

Fax: (334) 229-5050

Ed Richardson Secretary and Executive Officer 5114 Gordon Persons Building Montgomery, AL 36130-2101 (334) 242-9700

public education in alabama

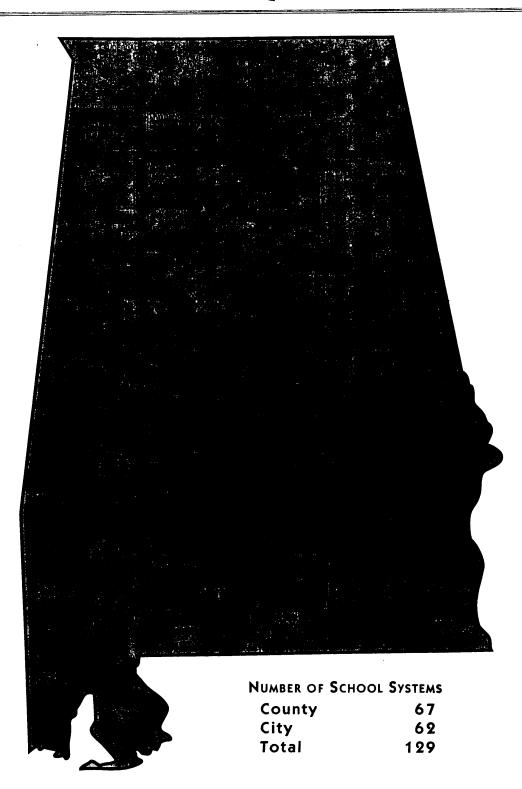
The Alabama constitution of 1901 states "The Legislature shall establish, organize, and maintain a liberal system of public schools throughout the state for the benefit of the children thereof between the ages of seven and 21 years." Additionally, it states that "General supervision of the public schools in Alabama shall be vested in a state board of education, which shall be elected in such a manner as the legislature may provide." The State Superintendent of Education, who is appointed by the State Soard of Education and serves at the board's pleasure, is the Chief State School Officer. The State Superintendent's authority and duties are determined by the State Board, subject to regulations prescribed by the Legislature.

For delivery of educational services, Alabama is divided into 129 local school systems, or local boards of education. There are 67 county boards of education and 62 city boards of education. Mobile County is the largest system with approximately 65,000 pupils and Linden City is the smallest system with just under 650 pupils. Board members of all 67 county boards of education are elected. Eleven city boards of education have legislation providing for elected board members and the remaining 50 city boards have their members appointed. Local superintendents of education for all city boards of education are appointed. Twenty-boards of education, the local superintendent is elected.

organization of K-12 in alabama

- alabama legislature
 Formulation of Education Laws
- state board of education
 Formulation of Regulations for Implementing Laws
- state superintendent of education
 Administration of the State Department of Education and Interpretation of Intent of Laws
- state department of education
 Enforcement of Laws and Regulations of Alabama Legislature and State Board of Education
- local boards of education
 Administration of Programs within the Laws and
 Regulations Set Forth by Alabama Legislature
 and State Board of Education
- local schools
 Implementation of School-Based Educational Programs As Set Forth by the Alabama Legislature and the State Board of Education

school systems



accountability

■ As cited in Section 16-16B-5, Code of Alabama:

"In addition to providing quality instruction in classrooms and fiscal soundness, all local boards of education shall be accountable for compliance with statutes and regulations regarding school safety and discipline."

■ The Alabama Legislature found that the people of Alabama desired two basic things from their public schools...(1) high achievement for students and (2) a safe and orderly environment in which to learn. With the passage of the Education Accountability Plan, (codified in sections 16-6B-1 through 16-6B-12) and beginning with the 1995-96 school year, all schools in Alabama have been required to be accountable for student achievement, fiscal responsibility, school safety, and discipline. State Legislature, the State Board of Education has assisted local boards of education in the development of a strong disciplinary policy which directs the State Board to closely monitor student achievement. Using nationally normed tests to assist with student assessment and evaluation, a determination is made each school year as to which schools and/or systems are listed as "Priority" or "Watch" status and need assistance for the State Department of Education (SDE). Designated teams visit those schools and conduct studies and consultations with parents and students to determine the causes of poor student achievement. Specific recommendations are then made as a part of the improvement plan for the succeeding school year. As a final step, when insufficient improvement is made after assistance is given, the State Superintendent of Education is required to intervene and appoint a person or team of persons to run the day-to-day operations of that school.

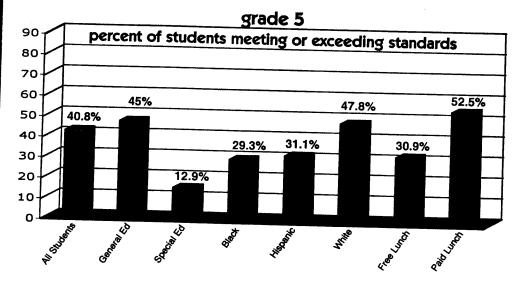
Relative to the fiscal accountability, local boards of education are now required to provide annual financial documents, including but not limited to annual budgets and financial statements. The State Board is directed to approve and audit budgets to assess the financial stability of each local board of education. Assistance is provided by person(s) appointed by the SDE to advise such agencies on a day-by-day basis if an unsound fiscal position is determined.

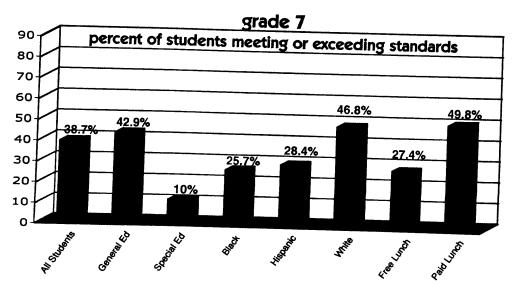
Each local board of education is required to comply with certain statutes enacted by the Alabama Legislature pertaining to school safety and discipline. If it is determined that any local agency has failed to comply with any of these acts or regulations, the SDE will provide assistance to obtain compliance. If after one year, the local agency has not come into compliance the direct management and day-to-day operation of that board of education will be assumed by the SDE until compliance is reached.

alabama direct assessment of writing 2003

Alabama students in Grades five and seven are given the Alabama Direct Assessment of Writing each year to measure their writing skills. This table shows how well students met the performance standard on this test. The percent of students tested is based on 120-Day Enrollment for the year 2002-2003. The letter grade indicates the level to which all Alabama students met or exceeded state standards.

		state	
All Levels		grade 5	grade 7
	Percent of Students Tested	94.5%	92.4%
Level 1	Percent Not Meeting Standards	11.6%	10.8%
Level 2	Percent Partially Meeting Standards	47.6%	50.5%
Level 3	Percent Meeting Standards	37.6%	35.9%
Level 4	Percent Exceeding Standards	3.2%	
	Percent Meeting or Exceeding Standards	40.8%	2.9%
Levels 3 & 4	3 - 4	40.0%	38.7%





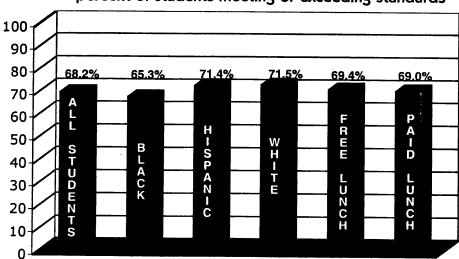
alabama alternate assessment

2003

The Alabama Alternate Assessment is designed for special education students whose Individualized Education Program [IEP] team determines that the student will not participate in the regular student testing program. This test is designed to evaluate the student's accomplishments of his/her IEP. The letter grade indicates the level to which all Alabama students taking the test met or exceeded state standards.

		State
All Levels	Number of Students Tested	6,696
Level 1	Percent Not Meeting Standards	16.8%
Level 2	Percent Partially Meeting Standards	15.0%
Level 3	Percent Meeting Standards	36.1%
Level 4	Percent Exceeding Standards	32.1%
	Percent Meeting or Exceeding Standards	68.2%
Levels 3 & 4	Grade	16

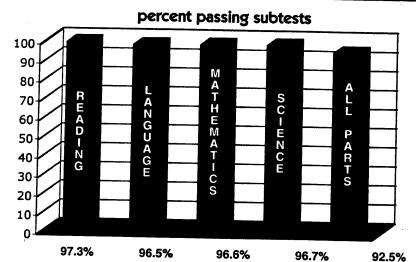
percent of students meeting or exceeding standards



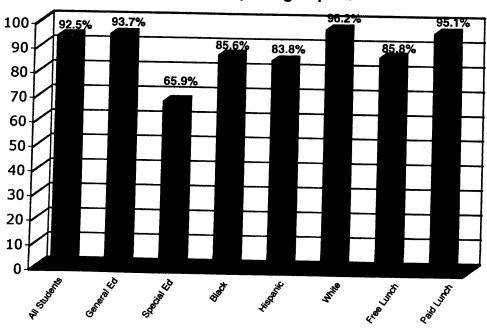
alabama high school graduation exam 2003

Students must pass the Alabama High School Graduation Exam to earn a regular diploma. The table shows the percent of 12th graders that passed each section of the exam as well as the percent that passed all four subjects. The letter grade indicates the level to which all Alabama students met standards by passing all four subjects of the graduation exam.

reading	langu	age	mathe	matics	scie	nce		pass all	
Number Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Grade
38,147 97.3%	38,150	96.5%	38,147	96.6%	38,143	96.7%	38,206	92.5%	257



percent passing all parts



career and college

ACT Test 2003

Most students planning to attend college take a college entrance exam. One of the best known is the ACT. This shows the average of the highest ACT score for the senior class. The Southeastern average is 20.0 and the national average is 20.8. The letter grade compares state performance to national.

	Number Tested	Average Score	Grade	
Grade 12	25,281	20.3	3	

Career and Technical Education

The Career and Technical Education programs are forming partnerships with business and industry to align curriculum with their standards. The goal is to certify all programs to industry standards by 2003. The number indicates the percentage of high school programs that have been certified. The letter grade indicates whether or not these programs are on track to meet that goal.

Percent	Grade
99%	

Percent of High School Students Enrolled in Career/Tech Classes

This is the percentage of students in Grades 9-12 who are enrolled in career and technical education coursework as compared to the overall student population in Grades 9-12.

Percent	
55.4%	

Percent of Positive Placements in Career/Tech

This represents the percentage of students who completed a career/technical program of studies and took a job in a related field or enrolled in postsecondary studies.

Percent	
92.0%	

Projected 4-Year Dropout Rate

This shows the percent of students in the 9th grade in 2001-2002 who are projected to leave school prior to graduation in 2005. This is NOT an annual dropout rate. The letter grade compares the state to the national rate of 17.49%.

PROJECTED 4-YEAR DROPOUT RATE	Grade
14.0%	:3

College Remediation

This chart shows the percentage of college freshmen from Alabama public schools in fall of 2002 who were enrolled in remedial courses at Alabama's public colleges and universities.

Total Freshmen	Remediation in Math	Remediation in English	Remediation in Math and English	Total Remediation
19,740	14.3%	7.0%	13.4%	34.6%